

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner has withdrawn the allowability of claim 5. However, although the Examiner has objected to claims 9, 11 and 12, the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if written in independent form.

Therefore, as shown in the previous section, Applicant has amended each of these claims, and drafted these claims in independent form. Applicant submits that these claims are now allowable for at least the reasons indicated by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1 and 3-14 are all of the claims currently pending in the present application.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection - Claim 13:

Claims 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that the term "type" is unclear and should be further defined.

Applicant has amended claim 13 as shown in the previous section and submits that this amendment adequately addresses the Examiner's concerns. Further, claim 13 has been written in independent form and is allowable as the prior art fails to disclose or suggest each and every

feature of the claim. Support for the amendment to claim 13 can be found in the specification at, at least, page 9, line 8 and Figure 3.

Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of the claim 13.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13 and 14:

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the previously applied Ogg reference. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

In rejecting the above claims, the Examiner has again applied the Ogg reference, and asserts that Ogg discloses all of the claimed features set forth in the rejected claims. Specifically, the Examiner is continuing to assert that the protrusions 50 correspond to the annular ridges of the present invention, and that the various hexagonal protrusions are of different sizes and intersect with each other.

However, Ogg fails to disclose, teach or suggest having annular ridges which are circular in shape. As shown in the non-limiting embodiment depicted in Figure 1, of the present application, the annular ridges are circular in shape. *See* claim 1 and 5. This is not disclosed, taught or suggested in Ogg, or the remaining prior art of record. Therefore, Applicant submits that these claims, along with their respective dependent claims are allowable over Ogg.

As shown in the Figure below, the Ogg projections are connected to each other to form a lattice structure on the surface 22 of the inner sphere 21. the lattice structure is based on

pentagonal or hexagonal patterns by combining a plurality of projections. See Figure 3 of Ogg.
This structure, disclosed in Ogg, is not circular, as claimed in the present application.

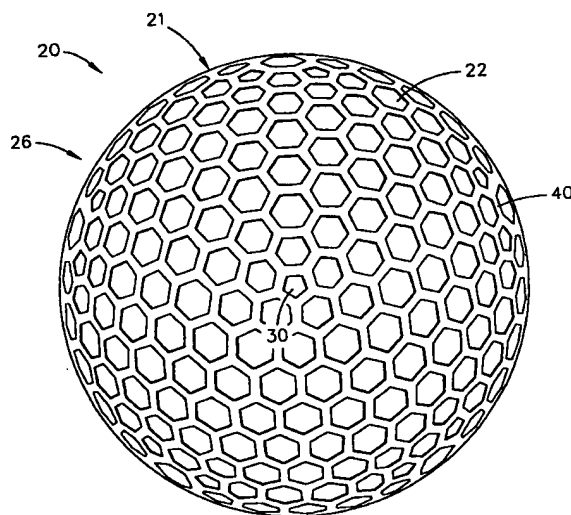


FIG. 2

Thus, Ogg fails to disclose having circular annular ridges protruding from a spherical surface of the ball, or having circular annular ridges intersect each other

Finally, with regard to claim 13, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of having a plurality of annular raised ridges protruded from the spherical surface, wherein the annular ridges have at least one shape as viewed from above and are arranged without mutual intersection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Ogg fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as set forth in claims 1, 5 and 13. Therefore, Ogg fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of the above claims.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number 10/685,491

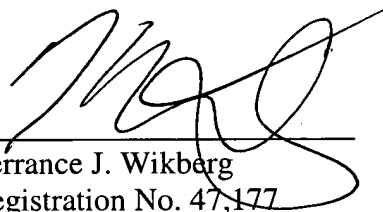
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Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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